

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and favorable consideration of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein, and new claims 27-51 have been added. It is noted that the claims in the International Application contained a discrepancy in the numbering, in particular there is no claim 8. Therefore, so as to be consecutively numbered in this national stage application as required by the United States rules, the claims as published in the International Application have been canceled and herein re-presented as new claims 27-51. Further, previous claim 25 (now claim 50) has been modified so as to not be in multiple dependent form. Thus, support for new claims 27-51 can be found throughout the originally filed application, including the claims of the International Application. No new matter has been added.

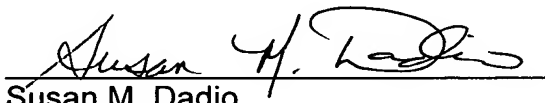
It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the claims as amended.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Preliminary Amendment, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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